

Dodson's Store

CT-1304

Olivet Road, Olivet (Calvert County)

1918, public access

Dodson's Store is set next to Mill Creek, and is proximate to a collection of both historic and more recent residences, which comprise the small settlement of Olivet. The Dodson's complex features the primary commercial store, a one-story gable front building, which overlooks a small gabled boathouse and a recent boat dock. Dodson's is bordered by a parking lot and an open lot which features grading suggestive of a landing ramp. The store and outbuilding date to 1918. The store features a small gabled addition dating to circa 1950. Dodson's Store is representative of commercial architecture found in rural communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The store is significant as a local community space.

Inventory No. CT-1304

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Dodson's Store

other Dodson's on Mill Creek

2. Location

street and number Olivet Road not for publication

city, town	Olivet	X	vicinity
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county	Calvert
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3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	James Dodson
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street and number	13690 Olivet Road	telephone	410.326.1369
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city, town	Olivet	state	MD	zip code
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	courthouse clerk	liber	JLB	folio 36
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city, town	Prince Frederick	tax map	44	tax parcel	199	tax ID number	01005952
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: Calvert County Historical Society

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> X </u> commerce/trade	<u> 2 </u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	<u> 2 </u>	_____ Total
		_____ government		
		_____ health care		
		_____ industry		
		_____ landscape		
		_____ recreation/culture		
		_____ religion		
		_____ social		
		_____ transportation		
		_____ work in progress		
		_____ unknown		
		_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			<u> 0 </u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1304

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dodson's store complex is located in the small town of Olivet, on the bank of Mill Creek. The complex consists of a commercial store building, a small boathouse and a recently-constructed boat dock. The store building is located on a site that slopes toward Mill Creek and is bordered by a parking lot and an open area that slopes down to a boat launching area. Both the store and boathouse were built in 1918, while an addition to the store was constructed circa 1950. The store is located at the end of Olivet Road, on the southern tip of a small peninsula that projects into Mill Creek. Mill Creek is situated just north of Solomon's Island, at the southernmost tip of Calvert County, at the convergence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. While Olivet has several buildings which date to the late 19th century, most of the existing buildings were constructed after 1950.

Dodson's store is a one-story, three-bay-wide, wood frame building oriented toward the east, with asbestos siding except where noted, a masonry foundation, and a gable roof covered with metal shingles. A centrally located simple brick chimney interrupts the ridgeline. The addition, placed along the western elevation, is constructed of concrete block and has a gable roof covered with asbestos shingles. A shed roof open porch supported by simple, square section wood porch and covered walkway ramp, constructed circa 1965, extends along the east façade and along a portion of the north elevation. The porch is likely a replacement.

On the first story, the east façade contains two symmetrically placed window openings, each with a six over one wood double hung sash covered by metal security bars. The windows flank a central doorway that has a pair of solid wood doors, constructed of rough cut vertical bead board oriented diagonally, which are covered by a pair of wood frame screen doors. There is a single fixed-pane wood sash window centrally located in the half story above, beneath the gable peak which also holds a louvered vent. The wood deck surface of the porch projects out from the east façade and is supported by four log posts beneath the east side and one log post beneath the center of the north and south sides. The edges of the porch are defined by simple wood posts and railings.

The south elevation is clad in clapboard siding and contains a single, centrally placed six over one wood sash double hung window. Plywood has been inserted between the brick foundation piers below the first story.

The circa 1950 addition extends out from the original west elevation, reaching to just below the gable peak of the original building. The west elevation contains a single, centrally-placed six light metal casement window. While the first story is concrete block, the gable end above is clad with asbestos shingles and contains a metal modern sign. As on the east façade, a louvered vent is located beneath the gable peak. A single metal pipe extends above the roof of the addition, just to the south of ridgeline.

The north elevation of the original building contains a single centrally-placed six over one wood sash double hung window, located at the start of the covered wood ramp that leads to the east side. The exposed foundation is brick masonry parged with concrete. The north elevation of the addition contains a centrally located doorway

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with a plain wood door, covered by a metal framed storm door. Below the door there is a small concrete landing and step.

The double doors on the east facade open into a large interior space that encompasses the original building which contains built-in wood shelving that extend from the floor to two feet below the ceiling. The wood shelving extends around the room, interrupted only by door or window openings. An L-shaped wood display cabinet is recessed into the northwest corner. A masonry pier, covered in plaster, is located in the center of the room. Ghost marks on the floor indicate that the pier once served as the chimney for a stove, no longer extant. A wood trapdoor above the entrance leads to an attic, currently used for storage. The interior of the addition, accessed by a door from the main room, has carpeting, plaster walls and a modern furnace with metal exhaust pipe that pierces through the ceiling above.

A wood walkway on the slope below the store building leads to a small, structure with asymmetrical gable roof and covered with asbestos siding, used as a boathouse. The north façade has a three panel door with six fixed-panes and a small rectangular hinged three-pane window on the east and west elevations. The structure and walkway are supported by wood posts. The walkway continues past the small boathouse and becomes a pier which has a metal shed and berthing spaces for several boats.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1304

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1918, 1937

Architect/Builder Joseph Joy

Construction dates 1918

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Dodson's Store is representative of commercial architecture found in rural communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The Store is significant as a local community space, and still conveys an important special "sense of place" for the town of Olivet, Maryland.

Dodson's Store was built in 1918 by Joseph E. Joy (1879-1960). Joy was born and raised in Olivet, and returned following college at Randolph-Macon Academy to teach school. He later worked for the B & O Railroad in Baltimore, before returning to build and open his own general store in Olivet in 1918. He was well known in Calvert County, and was elected in 1912 to the Maryland House of Delegates on the Republican ticket, where he supported temperance issues and "the welfare of the oyster, fish and crab industries." In 1915, he was elected to the State Senate, and returned as a member of the House again in the 1927 and 1929 sessions. In 1937 he was appointed by Governor Nice to serve on the Bench of the Orphans Court. Mr. Joy was also active in the Olivet Methodist Church, serving as a longtime superintendent of its Sunday School.¹

In 1937, James Dodson, at the age of 20, worked as a clerk for Joseph Joy, earning a salary of \$3 a week. Dodson leased the store in 1955, and bought the property outright in 1960. Dodson operated the store through his retirement in the late 1990s. The store is now operated as an antique business by Dodson's relatives.

Dodson's is representative of a vernacular architectural building type, the general store, common in many Mid-Atlantic towns. Dodson's exhibits many architectural features common to the general store— a one-story, freestanding structure, gable roof, secondary rear room, an interior with off-center counter, display cases, walls lined with shelves and attic storage area.²

Dodson's Store served as both a commercial establishment for local necessities as well an unofficial community center and gathering place. According to James Dodson:

Mostly locals, that was all who stopped by Joe Joy's little store to pick up a few food items when I started there as a clerk back in 1937 . . . people back in those days used to raise their own

¹ Joy Family File. Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

² Herman, Bernard & Gabrielle Lanier *Everyday Architecture of the Mid Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins) 1997. 233-235

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chickens for the table and they'd come in to buy a five-pound bag of flour for a quarter, so they could bake their cakes from scratch . . . the porch wasn't built yet and most of the customers generally stuck around inside to exchange tales.³

A 1997 newspaper account of Dodson's store reflects the unique role the store played in maintaining the community's rural pace of life:

Dodson, who never married, runs his country store the way he always has, waiting for the boats, the neighbors, the schoolchildren to find him on the front porch or settled on an old church pew in the store. There he leans against a piece of cardboard that is his backrest and naps, until a customer wakes him up."⁴

The physical structure of Dodson's Store belies its place as a community center. Such general stores were a frequent fixture in Calvert County during the early twentieth century, and served as an important social space, in addition to acting as a distribution point for goods. The general store was related in form to surrounding domestic residential architecture, rather than the distinctly different urban department store. Stores like Dodson's "feel like home" in part because of the strong architectural resemblance to surrounding domestic architecture. The wood stove or front porch served as hearths, and lent a central focus where local residents, who formed a permanent customer base, could gather and exchange information. As an integral part of the community, proprietors knew their customers. A trip to the store provided an "opportunity to visit and catch up on local news and gossip....and visits to the store for both business and social purposes became part of their routine."⁵

General stores were often the only place where certain goods or services were available. Rural general stores, such as Dodson's were often located along important transportation routes, near intersections and frequented water landing areas. Each general store had a local focus, and the store often served as an unofficial communication source between the local community and the outside world; they were often the first place within a community to have a phone.⁶

In addition, general stores served as the primary, and often only, source of goods for small rural settlements throughout Calvert County. Such stores adapted to developments in transportation infrastructure, in both design and setting. The unique maritime culture of Calvert County is reflected in the design and setting of Dodson's

³ Dodson Family File. Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Trieschmann, Laura et al "Calvert County Historic District Commission Survey of Public Meeting Places in Calvert County, Maryland" Report prepared for the Calvert Co. Historic District Commission. August 2002. 19-20

⁶ Ibid, 20.

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Store, which catered more to customers traveling along the water route of Mill Creek than those traveling by car.⁷

The social character of stores was also uniquely gendered. General stores in Calvert County served as both an inclusive gender-neutral social space, and as a distinctly “male” setting. “During the day, both men and women, black and white, would gather and socialize in the general store. . . . Evenings, however, when the general store stayed open late, were largely reserved for the men of the community.”⁸ General stores reflected – and shaped – the social rules of their surrounding communities. General stores combined material consumption with the daily social life of small communities such as Olivet.

Dodson’s Store was representative of both commercial trends common to rural communities throughout the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (in which a wide variety of commercial goods were bought through a single source) and of transportation trends specific to the unique geographic nature of Calvert County.

⁷ Ibid, 21.

⁸ Ibid, 20.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dodson Family File, Joy Family File. Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

Herman, Bernard & Gabrielle Lanier Everyday Architecture of the Mid Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes
(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins) 1997

Trieschmann, Laura et al "Calvert County Historic District Commission Survey of Public Meeting Places in Calvert County, Maryland" Report prepared for the Calvert County Historic District Commission. August 2002.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property less than 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting less than 1 acre
Quadrangle name Solomon's Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is marked as Tax Map 44, Parcel 199. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian , revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 5.5.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

ADDITION



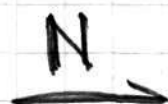
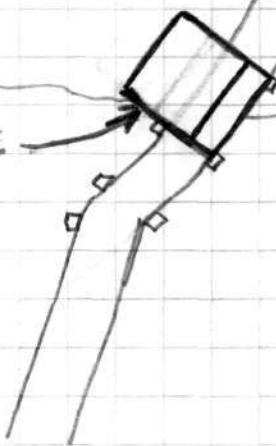
STORE



PORCH

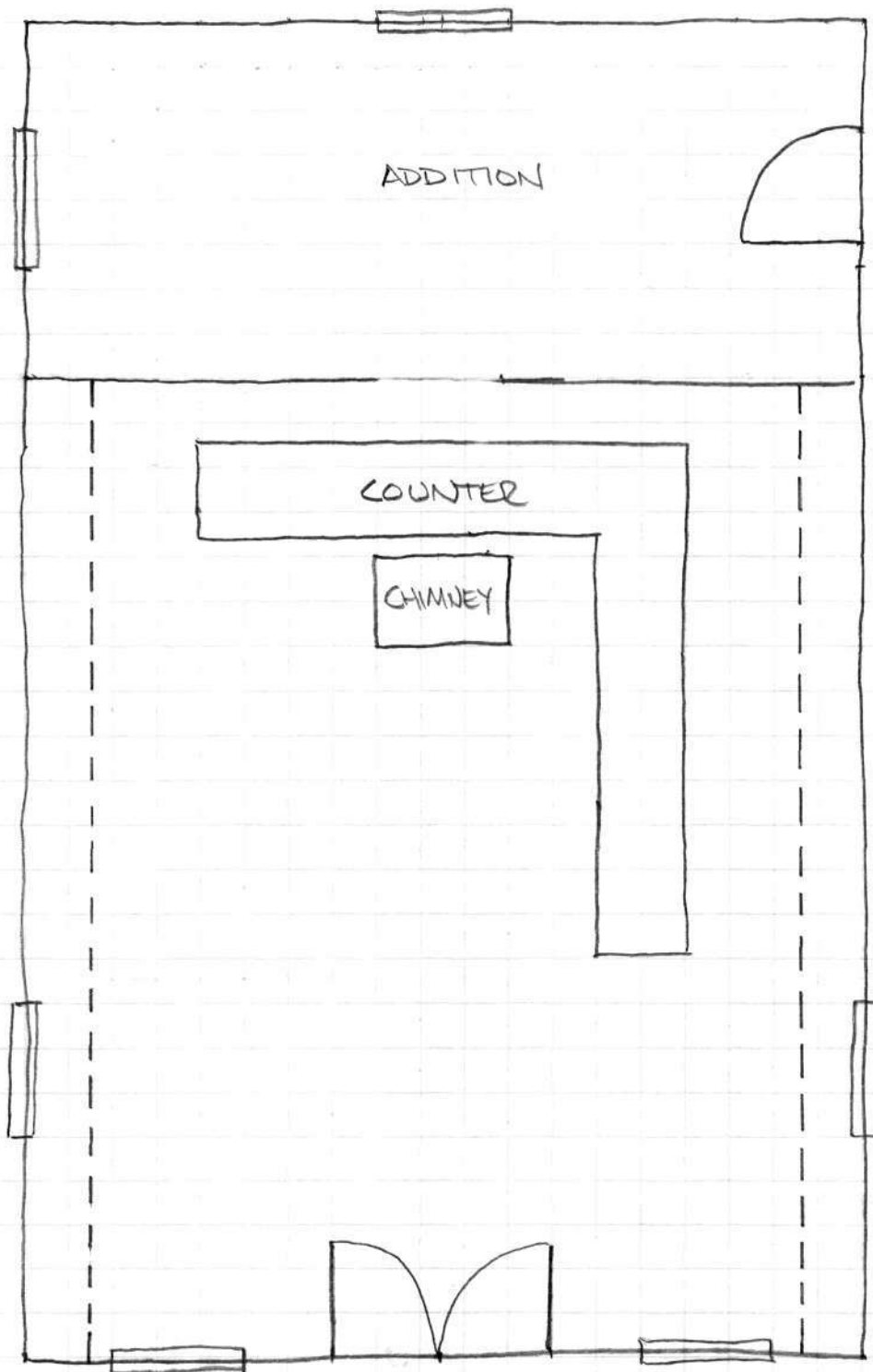


BOATHOUSE



CT-1304
DODSON'S STORE
OLIVET, CALVERT COUNTY

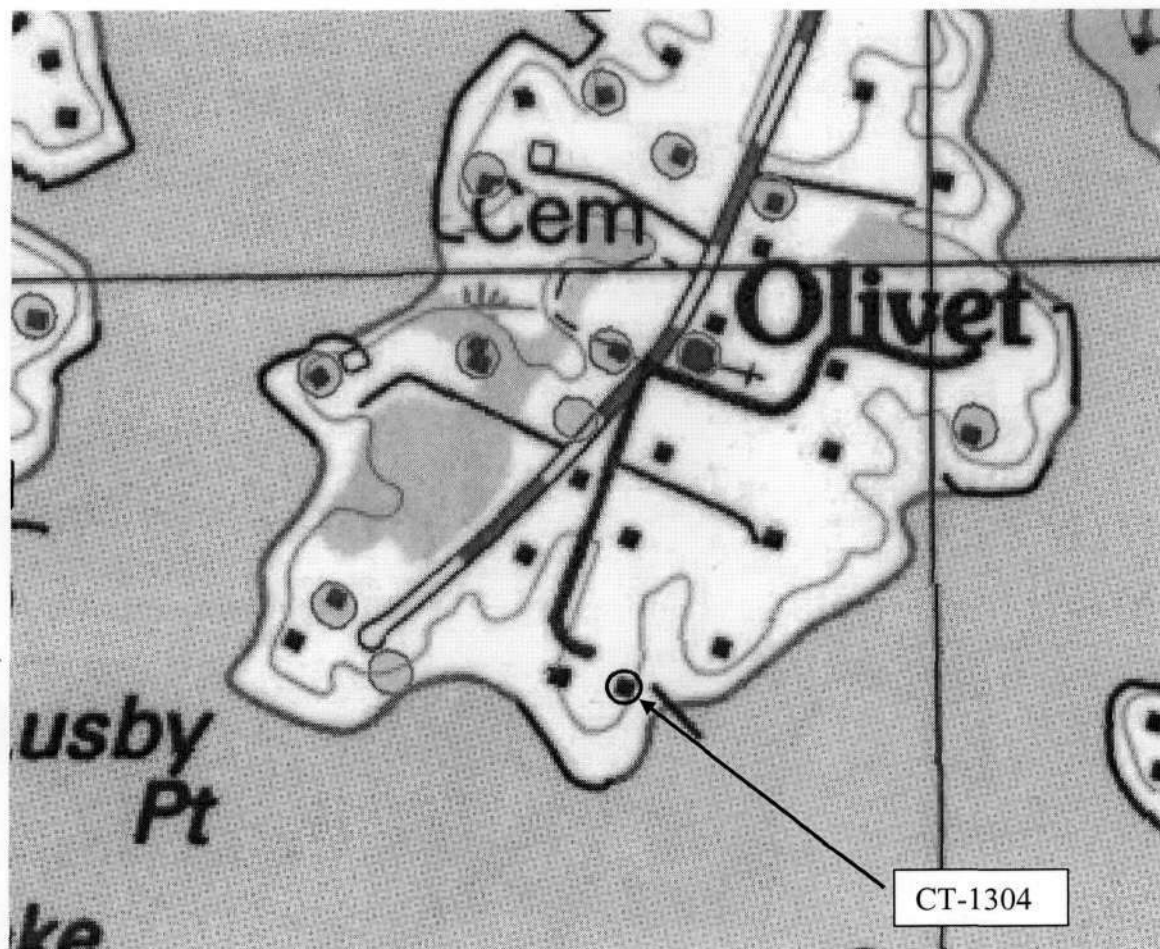
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
NOT TO SCALE



CT-1304
DODSON'S STORE
OLIVET, CALVERT COUNTY

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
INTERIOR
NOT TO SCALE

CT-1304
Dodson's Store
13678 Store Road
Olivet, MD 20657
Calvert County
Solomons Island Quad



[illegible]

FOR OWNERSHIP:
SEE PARCEL B
45A







5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0038

015

CT-1304

DODD'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CALLER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MD STEPO

EAST FACADE

1 of 9

66571



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 5 0038

016

CT- B04

DODSON'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CALVER, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE. MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

2 OF 9

66572



DODSON'S

On Mill Creek

Since
Antiques & Mercantile

"Southern the Best"

EST. 1900

Mobil

5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 1 0038

022

CT-1304
DODSON'S STORE
CALVERT, MD
CALDS CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO
WEST ELEVATION

3 of 9
66578



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0038

021

CT-1304

DODD'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CALVERT CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

1 OF 9

66577



66573



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN-3 0038

CT-1304

DODSON'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CALLES CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO
210

DETAIL OF EUTB/

DOORS

5 OF 9



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN-10 0038

014

CT-1304

DODSON'S STORE

CANWET, MD

CALB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MID SHIP

NORTH ELEVATION
OF BOATHOUSE

6 OF 9

66570



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN-10 0038

018

CT-1304

DODSON'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CLAUDE CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW
OF ENTRY DOORS

66574 7 of 9



CT-1304

DODSON'S STORE

CRAWFORD, MD

CALVIN CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MDSHPO
610

INTERIOR VIEW
OF DISPLAY
COUNTER

6 of 9

5.65 BA 00NX4N NNN-6 0038

66575





5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0038

020

CT-1304

DODSON'S STORE

CALVERT, MD

CALVER, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW

OF INTERIOR

CHIMNEY

66576

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